

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 03537 111645Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9974

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3537

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, OVIP, IT, US
SUBJECT: VISIT ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS

1. MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (COSTA, DIRECTOR FOR ENERGY QUESTIONS)
CALLED MORNING MARCH 11 TO INFORM US THAT GOI IS EXTENDING FORMAL
INVITATION TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS AND DIRECTOR FSE BOSWORTH
TO VISIT ROME MARCH 17-18 FOR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS ON ENERGY.
COSTA NOTED THAT MARCH 18-19 HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH ENDERS
IN PARIS BUT THAT CHANGE AT IEA GB MEETING NOW MAKES MARCH 19
IMPOSSIBLE.

2. GOI PROPOSAL WILL BE CONTAINED IN LETTER BEING TRANSMITTED
FROM DUBLIN (WHERE PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER WILL BE
UNTIL MARCH 12) TO AMBASSADOR ORTONA FOR DELIVERY.

3. COSTA LEFT NO DOUBT OF IMPORTANCE GOI ATTACHES TO ENDERS-
BOSWORTH VISIT. HE MENTIONED THAT GOI APPROVAL OF AD REFERENDUM
TEXT AGREED TO MARCH 6-7 IS BEING HELD IN ABEYANCE FOR THESE
DISCUSSIONS, ALTHOUGH GOI CONTINUES IN INTERIM TO ELABORATE ITS
POSITION.

4. WE URGE THAT ENDERS AND BOSWORTH MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND,
BOTH TO ENCOURAGE ITALIANS TO MOVE TOWARD US VIEWS AND SPEED
UP THEIR DECISION-MAKING PROCESS, AND TO HELP THEM POLITICALLY IN
DOING SO.

5. ASSUMING VISIT TAKES PLACE, WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE AS SOON
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AS POSSIBLE ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS PREFERENCES AS TO

SCHEDULING. IT IS LIKELY THAT MFA WILL PROPOSE A LARGE WORKING LUNCH. AMBASSADOR HAS LONG-STANDING PRIOR COMMITMENTS AT MIDDAY MARCH 17 AND FOR EVENINGS MARCH 17 AND 18 BUT WOULD WANT TO OFFER LUNCH ON MARCH 18. SINCE ENDERS' VISIT WILL AROUSE WIDE INTEREST HERE, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE FOR EXTENSIVE EXPOSURE TO PARLIAMENTARIANS, OFFICIALS, PRIVATE ENERGY SEC-

TOR AND PRESS IF THIS IS DESIRED. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENERGY, INVITATIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchantr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ROME03537
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750085-0118
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750362/aaaacdts.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchantr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by buchantr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS
TAGS: ENRG, OVIP, IT, US, (ENDERS), (BOSWORTH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006